



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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**For Immediate Release** – February 8, 2006  
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## Public Hearing Provides Vehicle for Commission to Discuss Statewide Transmission Needs

MADISON – Today, the Public Service Commission (PSC) held a public hearing to address transmission needs throughout Wisconsin. Today's meeting provided a vehicle for the Commission to talk with utilities, consumer groups and members of the public on how to meet growing energy demands, how to better access new electrical markets and how to improve transmission and generation coordination in Wisconsin and with surrounding states.

"Today's meeting provided an invaluable opportunity for the Commission and participants to discuss how to best address transmission needs in Wisconsin," said Chairperson Dan Ebert. "This increased dialogue is critical to ensuring we have a well-balanced approach to energy policy."

The Chairperson also noted that a balanced energy policy includes robust planning which addresses generation, transmission and efficiency investments necessary to provide reliable energy at the lowest cost. As a part of these efforts, the Commission recently endorsed legislation from the Governor's Task Force on Energy Efficiency and Renewables, which is essential to restoring the state's leadership in energy conservation and the use of renewables.

Today's discussion focused on transmission and is a part of a broader effort by the Commission to ensure an adequate and reliable source of energy in the state. Today's meeting was not about choosing a specific high-voltage line, but to discuss the variables leading to transmission improvements and how to efficiently coordinate them with energy generation.

"I appreciated the opportunity to have a discussion with energy providers, consumer groups and the public about future transmission needs for the state," said Commissioner Mark Meyer. "We have many complex variables in front of us including a new competitive wholesale market, a general industry trend toward regionalization, and evolving planning processes. Our discussion today was a good chance to explore the inter-related nature of these variables."

In the last several years, energy demand, supply and delivery have changed dramatically. The PSC's Strategic Energy Assessment, released in September 2004, addressed these changes. In response to the assessment, the Commission initiated a statewide, in-depth review of Wisconsin's transmission access capacity. A draft PSC report on access was issued this past fall which will provide information to the Commission as it considers policy direction on regional transmission issues.

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The Commission will be taking a close look at Wisconsin's transmission needs and will reflect on the ideas and information presented to them today. The Commission expects to take additional action within a few weeks.

Documents associated with this study can be viewed on our Electronic Regulatory Filing System at <http://psc.wi.gov/>. Type case number 137-CE-100 in the boxes provided on the PSC homepage, or click on the Electronic Regulatory Filing System button.

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